

## Rymer, Edwina

---

**From:** Honker, William  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 06, 2015 9:06 AM  
**To:** Thilsted, Eugene;Dellinger, Philip;Brown, Jamesr;Hosch, Claudia;Watson, Jane;Taylor, Patricia-A;Taheri, Diane  
**Cc:** Garcia, David  
**Subject:** FW: Daily News Digest, Tuesday, Jan. 6  
**Attachments:** Daily News Digest 01062015.pdf

Jim/Phil – note quake articles.

Jim/Patty – note Duncan drought issues.

Bill

William K. Honker, P.E.  
Director, Water Quality Protection Division (6WQ)  
EPA Region 6  
Dallas, TX  
214-665-3187

---

**From:** Hubbard, Joseph  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 06, 2015 8:56 AM  
**To:** R6 Daily News MailList  
**Subject:** Daily News Digest, Tuesday, Jan. 6

### **1 – PNM foes: Pollution controls over the top, ABQ Journal, 1/5/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/521740/news/pnm-foes-pollution-controls-over-the-top.html>

Questions about whether Public Service Company of New Mexico is adding costly pollution-control technology that critics say isn't required by regulators at the coal-fired San Juan Generating Station could be a key issue in regulatory hearings that began Monday in Santa Fe. PNM contends the technology is required by the state and federal governments, but a top state environment official disputed that in a Dec. 9 email.

### **2 – Shaken more than 560 times, Okla. is top state for quakes in 2014, EE News, 1/5/2015**

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060011066>

Oklahoma had a fivefold surge in earthquakes last year, making it by far the most seismically active state in the Lower 48. The Sooner State was shaken by 564 quakes of magnitude 3 and larger, compared with only 100 in 2013, according to an EnergyWire analysis of federal earthquake data. California, which is twice the size of Oklahoma, had fewer than half as many quakes.

### **3 – Duncan Bans All Outdoor Watering as Waurika Lake Levels Continue to Fall, StateImpact, 1/5/2015**

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2015/01/05/duncan-bans-all-outdoor-watering-as-waurika-lake-levels-continue-to-fall/>

The drought in southwest Oklahoma has lingered for more than four years now, and it will take more than a wet end to 2014 to stop it — a lot more. Despite receiving above average December precipitation, the City of Duncan will ban all outdoor watering beginning next week.

**4 – Raw Gas Fuels Worry for Rural Homeowner, Texas Tribune, 1/6/2015**

<http://www.texastribune.org/2015/01/06/something-witty-about-smelling-or-passing-wet-natu/>

A stiff winter wind smacks into the plate-glass windows of Jon Salis' Lake Palo Pinto home as six space heaters work overtime to keep it warm. Natural gas used to keep his 2,100-square-foot house cozy. In fact, Atmos Energy's gas service was one reason Salis decided to remodel a lakeshore cabin about 80 miles west of Arlington, and move here in 2001.

**5 – 3rd Man Dies of Injuries From Oklahoma Oil Rig Explosion, Tulsa 8 ABC, 1/5/2015**

<http://www.ktul.com/story/27761814/3rd-man-dies-of-injuries-from-oklahoma-oil-rig-explosion>

A third man has died of injuries suffered in a December explosion at an oil rig in southern Oklahoma. The wife of Mark Pittman told reporters that Pittman died during the weekend at an Oklahoma City hospital where he was taken following the Dec. 19 explosion and fire at the rig near Coalgate. Two workers died in the blast and subsequent fire and two more were injured.

**6 – Amid a New Swarm of Quakes, Researchers Head to Irving, State Impact, 1/5/2015**

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2015/01/05/amid-a-new-swarm-in-quakes-researchers-head-to-irving/>

A team of seismologists heads to the North Texas town of Irving today. Like some other Texas towns, Irving has experienced scores of small earthquakes lately, nineteen since last September, and the city is hoping to figure out what's behind the shaking. The upsurge in quakes started in Texas around the time the oil and gas boom took hold several years ago.

**7 – Oil extends drop below \$50 as U.S. stockpiles seen rising, Fuel Fix, 1/6/2015**

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2015/01/06/oil-extends-drop-below-50-as-u-s-stockpiles-seen-rising/>

Oil extended losses below \$50 a barrel amid speculation that U.S. crude inventories will expand, exacerbating a global supply glut that's driven prices to the lowest level since April 2009. Futures fell as much as 3.1 percent in New York, declining for a fourth day. Stockpiles in the world's biggest oil consumer probably rose by 750,000 barrels last week, a Bloomberg News survey shows.

**8 – EPA Launches New Rule To Rescind GHG Permits, Vows Enforcement Relief, Inside EPA, 1/5/2015**

<http://insideepaclimate.com/climate-daily-news/epa-launches-new-rule-rescind-ghg-permits-vows-enforcement-relief>

EPA plans to finalize by the end of the year a new rule for rescinding Clean Air Act permits for sources that triggered the requirements due solely to their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, a step the Supreme Court held to be unlawful, while also vowing to limit enforcement against entities that are currently subject to such permits.

**9 – Regulators weigh proposal to close part of New Mexico plant, Odessa America, 1/5/2015**

[http://www.oaoa.com/people/health/article\\_4f06bb4e-8abf-5ed9-b9e0-4cca6117eaa1.html](http://www.oaoa.com/people/health/article_4f06bb4e-8abf-5ed9-b9e0-4cca6117eaa1.html)

New Mexico regulators began taking testimony Monday on a plan that calls for shutting down part of an aging coal-fired power plant that provides electricity to more than 2 million people in the Southwest. The plan would curb haze-causing pollution at the San Juan Generating Station, but some environmentalists argue it doesn't do enough to wean the state's largest utility off fossil fuels.

**10 – Big threat for Obama's climate efforts from GOP-run Congress, ABQ Journal, 1/5/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/521593/news/big-threat-for-obamas-climate-efforts-from-gop-run-congress.html>

President Barack Obama's determined efforts to combat global warming face their biggest trial yet as Republicans take full control of Congress this week. The GOP vows to move fast and forcefully to roll back his environmental rules and force his hand on energy development. The GOP's first order of business: the Keystone XL pipeline. The Republican-led House has repeatedly passed legislation to approve the pipeline, which would carry tar sands oil from Canada deep into the United States. The bills died in the Senate when Democrats were in control, but that will change Wednesday when a Republican-led Senate committee holds a Keystone hearing.

**11 - Texas, Calif. throw their weight around on power plant regulations, Climate Wire, 1/5/2015**

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060011064>

The caricatures of the swaggering, independent Texan and the elitist, trend-setting Californian are on full display in the otherwise dry, technical comments the two major economic drivers submitted on U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan.

The states have unapologetically taken starkly different routes in transitioning to a cleaner energy future: California charging ahead with laws and regulations meant to move markets, and Texas eyeing natural gas and wind power for their cash potential as well as their environmental benefits.

**12 - Environment: Hearings set for proposed EPA smog rules, Summit County Voice, 1/5/2015**

<http://summitcountyvoice.com/2015/01/05/environment-hearings-set-for-proposed-epa-smog-rules/>

The public will have a chance to weigh in on a proposed EPA rule to cut smog at three public hearings set for late January and early February. In November, the agency unveiled its proposal to lower the standard from 75 parts per billion to as low as 60 ppb.

**13 - Calvey wants to continue to keep Oklahoma air and water clean, 1/5/2015**

[http://www.edmondsun.com/news/calvey-wants-to-continue-to-keep-oklahoma-air-and-water/article\\_78106136-9546-11e4-947c-03ee28d4403a.html](http://www.edmondsun.com/news/calvey-wants-to-continue-to-keep-oklahoma-air-and-water/article_78106136-9546-11e4-947c-03ee28d4403a.html)

To properly manage legislative proposals assigned to the Environmental Law Committee by listening to stakeholders is state Rep. Kevin Calvey's goal as committee chairman, he said. "Oklahoma generally has clean air and water, and we would like to keep it that way," said Calvey, R-Oklahoma City.

**14 - Fort Smith Settles Clean Water Act Violations With \$255 Million Plan, KUAR, 1/5/2015**

<http://ualrpublicradio.org/post/fort-smith-settles-clean-water-act-violations-255-million-plan>

Arkansas's second largest city, Fort Smith, will embark on 12-year, \$255 million upgrade to its sewer and water treatment operations as part of a settlement regarding a decade of Clean Water Act violations. KUAR's Jacob Kauffman talked to the Environmental Protection Agency's chief of the Municipal Enforcement Branch Loren Denton about where untreated waste ended up and the prospects of cleaner water.